J. Wayne Miller ’67

ROBERT H. GODDARD AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

J. Wayne Miller, the impact you have had in the world—indeed, on the very air we breathe—as an engineer and industry leader reflects the power of a WPI education.

After graduating from WPI, you earned a PhD in chemical engineering from California Institute of Technology. Your career began at Unocal, an integrated petroleum company engaged in worldwide exploration and production and domestic refining and marketing. As a senior research engineer, you patented nine inventions, one of which was used in several refineries. It was not long before you were chosen for roles of increasing leadership, finally becoming manager of Fuels Technology. In this role, you led the largest proprietary study of gasoline properties and tailpipe emissions, resulting in a breakthrough patent for cleaner burning reformulated gasoline. You were also one of six oil representatives on the landmark Auto/Oil Research Program, which ultimately led to the cleaner fuels and vehicles specified in the 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act.

In 1995, you joined Sunoco Inc. as vice president for technology and development and directed corporate products and process development and served as chief spokesman for technology issues. Among your many accomplishments at Sunoco, you were selected as technical advisor and an author for the National Petroleum Council Five-Year Outlook for Refining Business and elected to the board of the Industrial Research Institute, the industry’s premier research and development organization. In addition, you were a member of many professional and community organizations, including the American Petroleum Institute, where you served as chair of the Air/Fuels Program Group; the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program Board; the Philadelphia Air Pollution Control Board; and WPI’s Chemical Engineering Advisory Board.

Generous with your experience and knowledge, you started an academic career in 2001 as an adjunct professor at the University of California, Riverside, where you teach and are associate director of the College of Engineering—Center for Environmental Research Technology. With your students, your research on innovative strategies for cleaner air has led to 35 peer-reviewed publications, and the data you generated were included in one federal and six state regulations. Your efforts were recognized in 2008 when you received the university’s Non-Faculty Research and Teaching Award and in 2007 with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Climate Change Award. Your continued service as honorary judge for the Secretary of Defense annual Environmental Awards and as a technical advisor for the South Coast Air Quality Management Board contributes to a cleaner environment.

J. Wayne Miller, your accomplishments bring pride to the WPI community. We are honored to present you with the Robert H. Goddard Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.